CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of handling requests comprising the steps of:

handling requests with a handler;

detecting an overload condition for said handler;

directing requests to an alternative handler;

initializing a return timer;

when said return timer exceeds a time threshold for said alternative handler, routing requests to said handler; and

automatically adjusting said time threshold based upon a period using said handler.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

starting a handler timer to calculate said time in which said handler handles requests;

establishing a lower handler threshold; and

establishing an upper handler threshold.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

increasing said time threshold if said handler timer is less than said lower handler threshold when said overload condition is detected.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

decreasing said time threshold if said handler timer is greater than said upper handler threshold when said overload condition is detected.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

establishing a minimum limit for said time threshold; and

establishing a maximum limit for said time threshold.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

establishing a time increment for said time threshold before said overload condition is detected; and

increasing said time threshold by said time increment after said overload condition is detected based upon said time in which said handler handles requests.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

establishing a time decrement for said time threshold before said overload condition is detected; and

decreasing said time threshold by said time decrement after said overload condition is detected based upon said time in which said handler handles requests.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

detecting an overload condition for said alternative handler;

directing requests to another alternative handler;

starting another return timer; and

when said another return timer exceeds a time threshold for said another alternative handler, routing requests to said handler.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

automatically adjusting said time threshold for said another alternative handler based upon a period using said alternative handler.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said requests handled by said handler and said alternative handler comprise Web requests.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said handler and said alternative handler are components of an application server.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said handler and said alternative handler are components within an autonomic system.

13. An autonomic system for serving applications comprising:

an application server configured to receive client requests and configured to selectively provide server responses to said client requests;

a status hub configured to receive usage messages and responsively publish system status messages; and

a handler selector configured to automatically select a handler from among a plurality of handlers based upon said system status messages, wherein said handler selector directs requests from a primary handler to a secondary handler if a system status message for said primary handler indicates an overload condition.

14. The system of claim 13, said handler selector further comprising:

a return timer that is initialized when requests are routed to said secondary handler; and

a timer threshold for said secondary handler, wherein said handler selector redirects requests to said primary handler when said return timer exceeds said time threshold.

15. The system of claim 14, said handler selector further comprising:

a handler timer used to calculate a time in which said primary handler handles requests, wherein said time threshold is automatically adjusted based upon said handler timer.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein said handler selector directs requests from said secondary handler to a tertiary handler if a system status message for said secondary handler indicates an overload condition.

17. The system of claim 16, said handler selector further comprising:

another return timer that is initialized when requests are routed to said tertiary handler; and

a timer threshold for said tertiary handler, wherein said handler selector redirects

requests to said primary handler from said tertiary handler when said another return timer exceeds said time threshold for said tertiary handler.

18. A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

handling requests with a handler;

detecting an overload condition for said handler;

directing requests to an alternative handler;

initializing a return timer;

when said return timer exceeds a time threshold for said alternative handler, routing requests to said handler; and

automatically adjusting said time threshold based upon a period using said handler.

19. The machine-readable storage of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

starting a handler timer to calculate said time in which said handler handles requests;

establishing a lower handler threshold; and

establishing an upper handler threshold.

20. The machine-readable storage of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

increasing said time threshold if said handler timer is less than said lower handler threshold when said overload condition is detected.

21. The machine-readable storage of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

decreasing said time threshold if said handler timer is greater than said upper handler threshold when said overload condition is detected.

22. The machine-readable storage of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

establishing a minimum limit for said time threshold; and

establishing a maximum limit for said time threshold.

23. The machine-readable storage of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

establishing a time increment for said time threshold before said overload condition is detected; and

increasing said time threshold by said time increment after said overload condition is detected based upon said time in which said handler handles requests.

24. The machine-readable storage of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

establishing a time decrement for said time threshold before said overload condition is detected; and

decreasing said time threshold by said time decrement after said overload condition is detected based upon said time in which said handler handles requests.

25. The machine-readable storage of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

detecting an overload condition for said alternative handler;

directing requests to another alternative handler;

starting another return timer; and

when said another return timer exceeds a time threshold for said another alternative handler, routing requests to said handler.

26. The machine-readable storage of claim 25, further comprising the step of:

automatically adjusting said time threshold for said another alternative handler based upon a period using said alternative handler.

27. The machine-readable storage of claim 18, wherein said requests handled by said handler and said alternative handler comprise Web requests.

28. The machine-readable storage of claim 18, wherein said handler and said alternative handler are components of an application server.

29. The machine-readable storage of claim 18, wherein said handler and said alternative handler are components within an autonomic system.

30. A system of handling requests comprising the steps of:

means for handling requests with a handler;

means for detecting an overload condition for said handler;

means for directing requests to an alternative handler;

means for initialing a return timer;

means for routing requests to said handler when said return timer exceeds a time threshold for said alternative handler; and

means for automatically adjusting said time threshold based upon a period using said handler.